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MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE THIRD

Convention of Delegates

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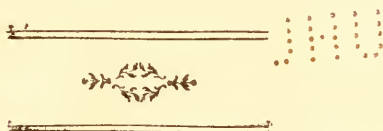
ABOLITION SOCIETIES

Established in different Parts of the United States,

ASSEMBLED AT

PHILADELPHIA,

ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, ONE THOUSAND SEVEN
HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX, AND CONTINUED, BY
ADJOURNMENTS, UNTIL THE SEVENTH DAY
OF THE SAME MONTH, INCLUSIVE.



Philadelphia:

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1796.

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M I N U T E S

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE THIRD

Convention of Delegates.

AT a Convention of Deputies, from the Abolition Societies established in the United States, assembled at Philadelphia, on the first day of January, 1796, in the City-hall, it appeared, by the credentials produced, that the following persons were duly appointed to represent their respective Societies in this Convention, *viz.*

Theodore Foster, *Providence Society.*

John Murray, junior,	}	<i>New York Society.</i>
Elihu Hubbard Smith,		
William Johnson,		
Thomas Eddy,		
William Dunlap,		
Samuel Miller,		
Moses Rogers,		

Joseph

Joseph Bloomfield,	} <i>New Jersey Society,</i>
Richard Hartshorne,	
Lucius H. Stockton,	
Thomas Redman,	
Eli Elmer,	
William Rawle,	} <i>Pennsylvania Society.</i>
Benjamin Rush,	
William Rogers,	
Samuel Powel Griffiths,	
James Todd,	
Samuel Coates,	
Caspar Wistar,	} <i>Wilmington Society.</i>
Frederick Craig,	
William Poole,	} <i>Maryland Society.</i>
Adam Fonerdon,	
Joseph Townsend,	
John M ^c Kim,	
Henry Wilkins,	
George S. Johnett,	} <i>Virginia Society.</i>
Robert Evans,	
Micajah Davis,	

Of whom the following appeared and took their seats, viz.

Theodore Foster,	William Rogers,
Elihu H. Smith,	Samuel P. Griffiths,
Samuel Miller,	James Todd,
Moses Rogers,	Samuel Coates,
Joseph Bloomfield,	William Poole,
William Rawle,	Joseph Townsend,
Benjamin Rush,	Micajah Davis.

Theodore

Theodore Foster was elected President.

Thomas Pim Cope, a member of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, was chosen Secretary, and Joseph Fry, Door-keeper.

Communications from the several Abolition Societies, made in consequence of the address from the Convention of 1795, were presented and read, and referred to a committee, consisting of Joseph Bloomfield, Elihu Hubbard Smith, William Rogers, William Poole, Joseph Townsend, Samuel Miller, and Micajah Davis, who were directed to report to the Convention the objects proper for its attention, and the order in which they should be considered.

The address to the free black People, postponed by the last, for the consideration of the present Convention, was read and made the order of Monday next.

Adjourned.

January

January second, 1796.

Present:

Theodore Foster, President,	
John Murray, junior,	James Todd,
Elihu H. Smith,	Samuel Coates,
Thomas Eddy,	William Poole,
Samuel Miller,	Joseph Townsend,
Moses Rogers,	Micajah Davis,
Joseph Bloomfield,	Benjamin Rush,
Eli Elmer,	Casper Wistar,
Samuel P. Griffiths,	William Rogers.

An apology was made for the non-attendance of Richard Hartshorne in the Convention—he being detained by sickness in his family.

The committee appointed to report to the Convention the objects proper for its attention, and the order in which they should be considered, made report.

So much of the said report as respects the address to the Abolition Societies, and the memorials and addresses to the Legislatures of South Carolina and Georgia, was read by paragraph, amended and agreed to.

It was then

Resolved, That it be referred to a committee of three to draft an address to the several Abolition Societies in the United States,

con-

conformably to the recommendation of the committee of arrangement: Caspar Wistar, Samuel Powel Griffiths and Samuel Miller were appointed accordingly.

Samuel Coates and Thomas Eddy were appointed a committee to ascertain what measures have been taken, in pursuance of the resolutions of former Conventions, relative to the transmission of memorials and addresses to the different state Legislatures.

Adjourned.

January fourth, 1796.

Present :

Theodore Foster, President,

John Murray, junior,	James Todd,
Elihu H. Smith,	Samuel Coates,
Thomas Eddy,	William Poole,
Samuel Miller,	Joseph Townsend,
Moses Rogers,	Henry Wilkins,
Joseph Bloomfield,	Micajah Davis,
Thomas Redman,	Caspar Wistar,
William Rogers,	and
Samuel P. Griffiths,	Benjamin Rush.

The consideration of the address to the free Blacks was entered into—After some progress made therein, the further consideration of it was postponed till to-morrow.

Adjourned.

January

January fifth, 1796.

Present:

Theodore Foster, President,	
John Murray, junior,	William Poole,
Thomas Eddy,	Joseph Townsend,
Samuel Miller,	Henry Wilkins,
Joseph Bloomfield,	Micajah Davis,
Thomas Redman,	Samuel P. Griffiths,
William Rogers,	Elihu H. Smith,
James Todd,	Moses Rogers,
Samuel Coates,	Benjamin Rush,
Frederick Craig,	Caspar Wistar.

The committee on the memorials and addresses to the different state Legislatures, made report, which was ordered to lie on the table.

The committee on the address to the Abolition Societies in the United States, made report, which was ordered to lie on the table.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the address to the free Blacks, which, after fundry amendments, was re-committed to Benjamin Rush, Samuel Coates and John Murray, junior.

The report relative to the memorials and addresses was taken up, considered by paragraph, amended, and adopted as follows:

The

The committee appointed to make enquiry respecting the measures taken in pursuance of the several resolutions of the former Conventions, for transmitting memorials and addresses to the different State Legislatures; report,

That no other proceedings than those that were reported last year, have taken place on the memorial to the Assembly of the State of Connecticut.

That the memorial to the Assembly of Rhode-island was received by the Abolition Society of that State, who did not think it expedient to present it at the time they received it.

That the memorial to the Assembly of New York was received, but not presented; and, since that time, the Abolition Society of New York have thought it most proper not to present it; as a memorial, at their recommendation, is now prepared to be signed by the citizens at large; the object of which is to procure an act for the gradual abolition of slavery in that State.

The memorial to the Assembly of New-Jersey has been presented, and a bill for the gradual abolition of slavery was brought in, which was lost by one vote.

The memorial to the Assembly of Pennsylvania was presented, but not acted upon. The Society was of opinion it was not necessary

fary; the objects of the memorial being either already obtained, or involved in the general proceedings of the Society.

The memorial to the Assembly of Delaware does not appear to have been acted upon.

The memorial to the Assembly of Maryland was sent by the Society of Baltimore at two different times, to be laid before the House; those persons who undertook to present it were of opinion, it was not a proper time to deliver it in, and therefore returned it to the Society again.

The memorial to the Assembly of Virginia was not presented—the Abolition Society in that State, judged it was best not to proceed with it, as they had prepared a memorial to their Assembly, which was signed by a considerable number of their most respectable citizens, and which contemplated the gradual abolition of slavery, by freeing all male children, hereafter born, at the age of twenty-one years, and females at the age of eighteen years. This memorial (which also embraced the amelioration of the condition of slaves) was read in their House of Representatives, where the further consideration of it was negatived by the small majority of two votes.

The memorial to the Assembly of North Carolina we have reason to believe was not presented; but we learn that a law was passed
about

about the end of the year 1794, or the beginning of 1795, in that state, to prevent the importation of slaves therein either by land or water.

The two memorials in 1794 and 1795, to the Assemblies of South Carolina and Georgia were duly forwarded; but, we are informed, were neither of them presented, and we cannot yet ascertain the passing of any late act in either of those states for the relief of slaves.

Adjourned.

January sixth, 1796.

Present:

Theodore Foster, President,

John Murray, junior,	Samuel Coates,
Elihu H. Smith,	Frederick Craig,
Thomas Eddy,	William Poole,
Samuel Miller,	Joseph Townsend,
Joseph Bloomfield,	Henry Wilkins,
Thomas Redman,	Micajah Davis,
William Rogers,	and
James Todd,	Benjamin Rush.

The Convention were informed, that the absence of William Rawle was owing to indisposition.

The

The committee to whom was referred the address to the free Blacks, made report, which was read and adopted, as follows, *viz.*

TO THE
Free Africans and other free People of color
IN THE
UNITED STATES.

THE Convention of Deputies from the Abolition Societies in the United States, assembled at Philadelphia, have undertaken to address you upon subjects highly interesting to your prosperity.

They wish to see you act worthily of the rank you have acquired as freemen, and thereby to do credit to yourselves, and to justify the friends and advocates of your color in the eyes of the world.

As the result of our united reflections, we have concluded to call your attention to the following articles of Advice. We trust, they are dictated by the purest regard for your welfare, for we view you as Friends and Brethren.

In the first place, We earnestly recommend to you, a regular attention to the important duty of public worship; by which means you will evince gratitude to your CREATOR, and, at the same time, promote knowledge, union, friendship, and proper conduct amongst yourselves.

Secondly,

Secondly, We advise such of you, as have not been taught reading, writing, and the first principles of arithmetic, to acquire them as early as possible. Carefully attend to the instruction of your children in the same simple and useful branches of education. Cause them, likewise, early and frequently to read the holy Scriptures. They contain, among other great discoveries, the precious record of the original equality of mankind, and of the obligations of universal justice and benevolence, which are derived from the relation of the human race to each other in a COMMON FATHER.

Thirdly, Teach your children useful trades, or to labor with their hands in cultivating the earth. These employments are favorable to health and virtue. In the choice of masters, who are to instruct them in the above branches of business, prefer those who will work with them; by this means they will acquire habits of industry, and be better preserved from vice, than if they worked alone, or under the eye of persons less interested in their welfare. In forming contracts, for yourselves or children, with masters, it may be useful to consult such persons as are capable of giving you the best advice, who are known to be your friends, in order to prevent advantages being taken of your ignorance of the laws and customs of our country.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, Be diligent in your respective callings, and faithful in all the relations you bear in society, whether as husbands, wives, fathers, children or hired servants. Be just in all your dealings. Be simple in your dress and furniture, and frugal in your family expenses. Thus you will act like Christians as well as freemen, and, by these means, you will provide for the distresses and wants of sickness and old age.

Fifthly, Refrain from the use of spirituous liquors. The experience of many thousands of the citizens of the United States has proved, that these liquors are not necessary to lessen the fatigue of labor, nor to obviate the extremes of heat or cold; much less are they necessary to add to the innocent pleasures of society.

Sixthly, Avoid frolicking, and amusements which lead to expense and idleness; they beget habits of dissipation and vice, and thus expose you to deserved reproach amongst your white neighbours.

Seventhly, We wish to impress upon your minds the moral and religious necessity of having your marriages legally performed; also to have exact registers preserved of all the births and deaths which occur in your respective families.

Eighthly, Endeavour to lay up as much as possible of your earnings for the benefit of
your

your children, in case you should die before they are able to maintain themselves—your money will be safest and most beneficial when laid out in lots, houses or small farms.

Ninthly, We recommend to you, at all times and upon all occasions, to behave yourselves to all persons in a civil and respectful manner, by which you may prevent contention and remove every just occasion of complaint. We beseech you to reflect, it is by your good conduct alone, that you can refute the objections which have been made against you as rational and moral creatures, and remove many of the difficulties, which have occurred in the general emancipation of such of your brethren as are yet in bondage.

With hearts anxious for your welfare, we commend you to the guidance and protection of that BEING who is able to keep you from all evil, and who is the common Father and Friend of the whole family of mankind.

Resolved, That the above address be signed by the President and attested by the Secretary, and that three thousand copies thereof be printed in hand-bills, and transmitted to the several Abolition Societies in the United States; to be by them distributed in such manner as shall appear best calculated to promote its design.

The address to the Abolition Societies was considered by paragraphs, amended, and re-committed

committed to the committee who made the report.

The report of the committee of arrangement was proceeded on and finally adopted, as follows :

The committee appointed to arrange the objects proper for the consideration of the Convention, and the most suitable means of attaining the same, report,

That an address be made, by this convention, to the several Abolition Societies in the United States, recommending to them to send deputies to a convention similar to the present, to be holden at Philadelphia the first Wednesday of May, in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven.

Also, that it be recommended to those societies who have not sent to this Convention, complete copies of the laws of their several States relative to slavery, to send, to the next Convention, certified copies of all such laws as are now in force, have been repealed, or may be hereafter passed; and also correct lists of the officers of each society for the time being; enumeration of the members of each society; accounts of the relief extended to Africans and others unlawfully held in bondage; statements of their condition, whether bond or free, in respect to property, employment and moral conduct; reports of trials and decisions of courts relative to Africans; conformity to
the

the recommendation of the last Convention to establish periodical discourses; information respecting the success of all endeavors after a repeal or amelioration of the laws concerning slavery; and the progress made in extending to the Africans the benefit of education; and finally, an unremitting attention to all the great objects pointed out in the address, above referred to, of the last Convention: And to request, that whatever communications are made to the Convention from the several Societies, in consequence of this recommendation, may be presented in the form of regular written reports from each Society; noticing in what form and degree they have carried them into effect, and how far their efforts have been ineffectual—thus exhibiting a view of the state of each Society; so that the several reports may be entered on the minutes of the Convention, and the Convention be thereby the better enabled to decide on the propriety of making such communications public; or what part or parts of them are best adapted, by their publication, to advance the cause of truth and humanity.

And as advantages have, in numerous instances, resulted from accurate registers being kept, by persons appointed for that purpose by certain of the Abolition Societies, of manumissions, to recommend to all those of the Abolition Societies who have not already entered into such a regulation, to make it hereafter a matter of diligent attention.

And further, as difficulties have arisen in respect to carrying into effect that part of the last circular address of the Convention which relates to people of color, emigrants from the West Indies, now residing in the United States, that the proposed address contain an extract from the twelfth article of the Consular Convention between France and the United States, which designates the proper tribunals to whom application, in all such cases, is to be made; and as precise information, on this subject, cannot be too generally diffused, that the Pennsylvania Society be requested to collect all possible information relative to such emigrants of color, in this country, as are made citizens of the French republic, by the decree of the National Convention of the sixteenth Pluviose of the second year of the republic, and to transmit the same to the several Societies.

And that it be impressed upon all the Societies, to use every just means in their power which may advance, either directly or indirectly, the great cause of liberty; and that, as one mean of promoting its interests, they be earnestly solicited to display a marked preference of all such commodities as are of the culture or manufacture of freemen, to those which are cultivated or manufactured by slaves.

That inquiry be made concerning the measures taken, in pursuance of the resolution
of

of the Convention of 1795, for transmitting memorials to the Legislatures of the States of South Carolina and Georgia.

In addition to the preceding report, the committee have thought proper to lay before the Convention, a summary of the information which has been forwarded by the several Societies, in conformity to the recommendation of former Conventions, which is as follows, *viz.*

The *Connecticut Society* have transmitted the constitution of their Society, and copies of the statutes of Connecticut concerning slavery and the slave trade.

The *New-York Society* have transmitted copies of their constitution, of the existing laws of their State relative to slaves and slavery; a correct list of their officers for the time being, and a statement of the number of their members; a brief account of the origin and progress of the Society, together with a general estimate of the relief extended to Africans and the descendants of Africans; a short history of their institution for the education of African descendants; and the additional information, that they have instituted an annual oration on subjects relative to the object of their association; that they are preparing, to be transmitted to some future Convention, reports of several cases adjudged in the courts of judicature of the State of New-York; that a plan has been proposed

posed (in conformity to the recommendation of the last Convention) for educating a certain number of black children, liberally; and that they have now in readiness, to be presented to the Legislature of that State at their next session, a petition for the gradual abolition of slavery in that State; of the success of which they indulge the most flattering expectations.

The *New-Jersey Society* have transmitted the constitution of their Society, the laws of New-Jersey concerning negroe and mulatto slaves now in force, and such as have been repealed, and a certified copy of the decisions of the Supreme Court of New-Jersey respecting slavery; a list of the officers of the Society, with the number of members of which it consists and the minutes of the Society for the year 1795.

The *Pennsylvania Society* have transmitted the constitution of their Society and the act of the incorporation of the same; copies of such laws respecting slavery as are now in force, with extracts and titles of the laws which have been repealed; a list of the officers and number of the members, closing with the year 1795; a plan for improving the condition of the free blacks; cases of the liberation of two French negroes under the decree of the sixteenth of Pluviose, second year of the republic; specimens of penmanship of the black children in one of the schools of Philadelphia; an account of the number
of

of free blacks in the city and liberties of Philadelphia, whereby it appears, that there are three hundred and eighty-one families, consisting of one thousand two hundred and ninety-four persons of that description, included in which number are the proprietors of ninety-nine houses, the average worth of which houses are supposed to be two hundred dollars each, held chiefly on ground-rent, and, for that cause, valued low—the greater number of these free blacks conduct themselves with reputation and enjoy the comforts arising from industry. In addition to the above-described black people, there are many others who are employed as domestic servants in the families of the whites, whose numbers are not ascertained. The blacks have two places of worship of their own in the city of Philadelphia, and there are also several free schools for their particular use—some of which are supported by the Pennsylvania Abolition Society.

The *Wilmington Society* have transmitted the constitution of their Society; a list of persons liberated by their agency; a list of their officers with the number of members; and information, that the Society propose to petition the Legislature of Delaware, at their next session, for an act for the gradual abolition of slavery.

The *Maryland Society* have transmitted the constitution of their Society; list of officers and number of members; number of persons liberated

- liberated through their agency; information that the Society propose to make application to the Legislature for the amelioration of the situation of the blacks, and for a gradual abolition of slavery; that annual orations have been delivered; good disposition of the blacks
- discovered to attend places of religious worship; and the institution of an academy for their instruction in literature, under the particular patronage of the Society.

The *Virginia Society* have transmitted the constitution of their Society; list of officers and number of members, with information, that an application to the Legislature of Virginia, for the gradual abolition of slavery, has been rejected by a very small majority.

Adjourned.

January seventh, 1796.

Present:

Theodore Foster, President,

John Murray, junior,	James Todd,
Elihu H. Smith,	Samuel Coates,
Thomas Eddy,	Frederick Craig,
Samuel Miller,	William Poole,
Moses Rogers,	Joseph Townsend,
Joseph Bloomfield,	Henry Wilkins,
Thomas Redman,	Micajah Davis,
William Rogers,	and
Samuel P. Griffiths,	Benjamin Rush.

The

The committee to whom was referred the address to the different Abolition Societies made report, which was adopted as follows, viz.

*To the Society for promoting
the Abolition of Slavery, &c.*

The Delegates from the several Abolition Societies in the United States inform you, that, agreeably to the recommendation of the Convention of last year, they met in this city on the first instant, and have, with much harmony and satisfaction, gone through the business which came before them. They have the pleasure to assure you, that every successive meeting evinces the importance of that union and concert which are so happily established among the several Societies, in pursuing the great object of their association.

But, although the exertions of this delegated Body have been hitherto attended, as we hope, with considerable success—Although we are persuaded that no small progress may be marked in the great business of emancipation; yet much remains to be done; as long as *seven hundred thousand* of our Fellow Creatures, in the United States, continue in a state of bondage, there appears a pressing necessity for the continuance of our efforts; that we should keep our attention fixed upon the subject, and stand ready to improve every favorable opportunity that
may

may occur, to forward the interesting cause in which we are engaged. We are therefore induced to continue the recommendation heretofore made, that a similar meeting be annually held; and as convening at the present season is attended with inconveniences, we propose, that the next Convention, should assemble in this city, on the first Wednesday of May, in the year 1797.

It gave us pleasure to learn, from various reports which were laid before us, that most of the recommendations made by the former Conventions, had received a considerable degree of attention, from the several societies to whom they were addressed. But, as they have not been uniformly and perfectly complied with, permit us to repeat the request, *so far as the same may be applicable to your society*, that you transmit to the next Convention, certified copies of all such laws, in any wise respecting slavery, as are now in force, as have been repealed, or may hereafter be enacted—Correct lists of the officers of your society, for the time being, and also the names of all your members, and their places of abode—An account of the proceedings of your society, in relieving Africans and others unlawfully held in bondage—A statement of the condition of the blacks, both bond and free, in your state, with respect to the property of the free, and the employment and moral conduct of all—Re-
ports

ports of such trials and decisions of the Courts of Judicature, relative to Africans, as may have taken place—An account of the endeavors which have been used to obtain a repeal or amelioration of the laws respecting slavery—Information concerning what has been done, in pursuance of the recommendation of the last Convention, to establish periodical discourses on the subject of slavery, and the means of its abolition—And finally, a report of the progress you have made in extending to Africans the benefits of education. And we further request, that whatever communications may be made to the next, or to any future Convention, in consequence of the above recommendations, be presented in the form of regular written reports, noticing in what manner and degree you have carried them into effect, and how far your efforts have been ineffectual. By this mean there will be exhibited such a view of the state of each Society, as that the several reports may be entered on the minutes of the Convention, who will thereby be better enabled to decide on the propriety of making public such parts of these communications as may be best adapted to advance the cause of truth and humanity.

And as very important advantages have, in several instances, resulted from accurate registers being kept, by persons appointed for that purpose by certain of the Abolition So-

cieties in the United States, of such numbers as have taken place; we do earnestly recommend, should you not already have entered into this regulation, that you make it hereafter an object of diligent attention. Such records may, in various ways, subserve the cause of emancipation.

We learn, that the proposal made by the last Convention, respecting the blacks and people of color, who have emigrated from the West Indies, and now reside in the United States, has, in many instances, given rise to difficulty; in order to remove which, we have been induced to transmit to you the following extract from the twelfth article of the Consular Convention between France and the United States; which, by designating the proper tribunals to whom application, in such cases, is to be made, will, we trust, be found sufficient, in future, to direct your proceedings in this business, *viz.*

“ That all differences and suits between
 “ French citizens in the United States, and
 “ between American citizens in the dominions of France, shall be determined by
 “ the respective Consuls and Vice Consuls,
 “ either by a reference to arbitrators, or by
 “ a summary judgment, and without costs;
 “ and that no officer of the country, civil
 “ or military, shall interfere therein, or take
 “ any part whatever in the matter.”

When

* When we contemplate the odious nature and the immense magnitude of the evil which you have associated to oppose, and the inestimable importance of the objects which you are seeking to obtain, we cannot forbear to urge unremitting exertions, in pursuing the great ends before you. We are persuaded you will not neglect any just means in your power, which may tend to advance, either directly, or indirectly, the cause of equal liberty;—And it gives us pleasure also to express our persuasion, that, in this pursuit, much is still in your power. Although you cannot controul Legislatures; and though, when you plead the cause of humanity, they will not, at all times, listen to you; yet there are other means to be used, perhaps, more effectual—You can do much, by directing your efforts to the conviction of individuals—by diffusing proper publications amongst them, and by presenting the evils of slavery in various forms to their minds.

Nor

* *The following was inserted in the Address to the Pennsylvania Abolition Society:*

And as precise information, on this subject, cannot be too generally diffused, we request you to collect all possible intelligence relative to such blacks and people of color in the United States as are made Citizens of the French Republic, by the decree of the National Convention, of the sixteenth Pluviose, second year of the republic, and transmit the same to all the other Abolition Societies in the United States.

Nor can we suppose, it would be an effort altogether ineffectual in favor of liberty, were its friends, throughout the United States, in all cases where it is practicable, to display a marked preference of such commodities, as are of the culture or manufacture of free-men, to those which are cultivated or manufactured by slaves—In this way, every individual may discountenance oppression, and bear testimony against a practice, which is still suffered to remain the disgrace of our land.

We have thought proper to address the free Africans and other free people of color in the United States, on various subjects, which we believe nearly to concern their interest and happiness. We have directed copies of this address to be transmitted to you, and request you to distribute the same, in your State, in such manner as you may judge best calculated to promote its design.

We cannot conclude, without calling your attention, in a particular manner, to the necessity of appointing such of your members to represent you in the Convention, as will be punctually attentive to the duties of their appointment. We are sorry to observe, that there is some ground of complaint on this subject; but we trust, that, in future, such a full representation will appear, as will give increasing encouragement, energy and success to our united endeavors, in the great cause of human happiness.

Copies

Copies of our proceedings will be laid before you; from which, we hope, you will derive satisfaction, and perceive the importance of the several objects which we have recommended to your attention.

The Delegates from the Pennsylvania Society, communicated the following extract of a letter to that Society, from Samuel Hoare, junior, Treasurer to the committee of the London Society, instituted for the purpose of effecting the abolition of the slave trade:

“ Since the commencement of our correspondence, we have never addressed you under circumstances of greater discouragement, as to the attainment of the object of our institution, than at present—The arts and sophistry of interested men, have even proved sufficient to induce the House of Commons to desert a duty, the incumbency of which, after a long investigation, it had solemnly acknowledged—And we have to lament the failure of those exertions, which, aiming at a temporary abolition of the slave trade, were calculated to avert the calamities we had anticipated as the inevitable consequences of its continuance.

“ At our last meeting, your letter of the third of March, was laid before us, and afforded a satisfaction which such proofs of
“ your

“ your benevolent perseverance have never
 “ failed to impart—We beg you will be as-
 “ sured of the interest we continue to feel
 “ in the success of your endeavors, and of
 “ the pleasure with which we consider their
 “ increasing impression on the minds of your
 “ Fellow Citizens—The establishment of
 “ similar Societies in other and remote parts,
 “ and of a Convention intended to concen-
 “ trate your influence, we regard as happy
 “ presages that the day is not far distant,
 “ when the virtue and vigour of your rising
 “ Empire, will be manifested in the total
 “ extinction of personal as well as political
 “ slavery, in the United States.

“ We duly received the copies sent to us
 “ of the minutes of the last Convention; and
 “ we desire, through you, to present our
 “ thanks for this acceptable mark of its atten-
 “ tion, with a copy of our late report.”

Which, with the printed report of the committee therein referred to, was now read,

Whereupon,

Resolved, That this Convention, whilst
 they regret the want of success which has
 attended the efforts of the friends of the aboli-
 tion of slavery in Great Britain, receive with
 satisfaction the congratulations of the London
 committee, on the progress made towards the
 extinction of slavery in the United States; and
 that the President transmit a copy of the pro-
 ceedings

ceedings of the Convention, to the committee of the London Society, with a letter expressive of the feelings of the Convention on this occasion.

Resolved, That Theodore Foster, Samuel Coates and Samuel Powel Griffiths be a committee to superintend the publication and distribution of the proceedings of the Convention; and that fifteen hundred copies be printed and distributed amongst the different Abolition Societies in the United States.

Resolved, That the address to the several Societies be signed by the President, attested by the Secretary, and forwarded to the Societies by the committee above mentioned: and that the same committee be further directed to transmit to the several Societies, the printed copies of the address to the free blacks, in such proportion as shall to them appear proper.

Resolved, That James Todd, Samuel Powel Griffiths and Samuel Coates be a committee to notify all the Abolition Societies in the United States, of the meeting of the next Convention, at least three months before such meeting is convened: and to have the proceedings of this and the former Conventions transcribed, and, with the papers, deposited in the care of the President of the Pennsylvania Society.

Resolved,

Resolved, That William Rogers and James Todd be a committee to communicate to the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Philadelphia, the thanks of this Convention, for the use of their room.

Adjourned, *sine die*.

Published by order of the Convention,

THOMAS P. COPE, *Secretary*.

Philadelphia, January 7th. 1796.

